

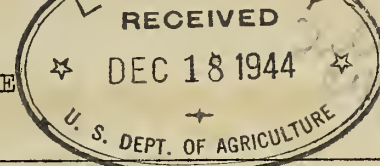
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Administration



No. 28

AMA "WAR BOARD" LETTER

Wash.D.C. Aug. 8, 1942

COTTON: Under agreement reached by all major cotton trade organizations and through amendment of Southern Mill Rules, producers will receive a 7-pound gross weight allowance for all cotton marketed from now on in bales covered with cotton fabric patterns. This is expected to bring about marked increase in use of cotton bale patterns. It marks culmination of about 5 years intensive action by Utilization and Diversion Division, Cotton Branch, AMA, which has been promoting use of cotton bale covers. Weight allowance for cotton wrapped <sup>bales</sup> is based on fact: jute wrapper and ties on a 500-lb bale weigh about 21 pounds, while cotton wrapper and ties weigh only 14 pounds. Cotton Branch has sought allowance for cotton wrapped bales for some time and prior to adoption by all the cotton associations, had secured consent of mills representing 68% of all spindles in country to make the allowance. Meanwhile, the Branch's program to provide 4,000,000 cotton bale patterns this year has been brought to successful conclusion. Lane Cotton Mills, New Orleans, will make 3,930,000 of the patterns and Little Rock (Ark.) Textile Co., will make other 70,000. Both firms will be paid 35¢ per pattern by AMA and will sell covers to growers at \$1.10 each. Officials explain this is close to prevailing price for jute wrappers. While it is doubtful that entire 4,000,000 cotton patterns be available for use this year, officials feel that bale covering supplies will be ample. (Advise farmers to insist on 7-lb. weight allowance.)

GRAIN STORAGE: situation more pessimistic. OAWR reveals that tabulation of data from July 1 crop report indicated that probably storage requirements for 1942-43 crop year would far exceed earlier expectations. Reasons: favorable growing conditions, particularly for wheat, making higher than average yields probable. Estimates of further needs for grain storage have been presented to Food Requirements Committee. Survey of grain storage situation following wheat harvest is planned. Probably be made by AAA committee in major winter wheat states on Aug. 15 and in spring wheat states on Sept. 15.

CANNED VEGETABLES: In connection with OPA announcement of past week changing basis of fixing maximum prices of canned tomatoes and canned peas, do not lose sight of the fact that certified canners can continue to sell to USDA at the same price of 95¢ per dozen for tomatoes and \$1.10 per dozen for peas.

FARM LABOR: Agreement has been reached between United States and Canada to permit flow of harvesting machinery and crews across border between states of Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana and the Prairie Provinces. Means that Canadian laborers and machinery will be able to help harvest crop in those states, which comes on two or three weeks earlier and that afterwards U.S. laborers and machinery can travel north into the Prairie Provinces and help harvest the Canadian crop. Movement back and forth across the border will be arranged at local offices of the United States Employment Service in the border states. Both American and Canadian owners of machinery and harvest crews are being urged to register at the USES offices. Movements will be made by harvest units - a machine and its owner or lessor and not more than four crew members. Customs duties and passport regulations will be waived on the movements of men and machines. Restrictions on laborers: Only persons eligible to enter Canada are U.S. Citizens, except those of Japanese ancestry, and any aliens other than those native of enemy countries, i.e., Germany, Italy or Japan. Only persons eligible to enter United States are Citizens of Canada or British subjects domiciled in Canada, except those native of any enemy country. In NO case may a harvesting unit from Canada remain in the United States more than 29 consecutive days. A somewhat similar arrangement regarding Mexican labor has recently been announced.



COTTON FREIGHT RATES: Representative of AMA Warehousing and Transportation Division will appear at Interstate Commerce Commission hearings, beginning in Memphis, August 17, on cotton rates. Hearing covers complaint of cotton compress and merchant interests against 35,000 lb. minimum middle rate classification on cotton. They are asking that this rate be eliminated. A number of growers representatives also are expected to appear at the hearings which may extend for some time. AMA stand in matter will depend upon just what action is sought of ICC.

VICTORY FOOD SPECIALS: Tomatoes will be featured again on VFS list during period Aug. 24 thru Sept. 5. This time, however, they will be featured only in States east of Mississippi River and North of Ohio and Potomac Rivers. Special emphasis will be placed on home canning of tomatoes where such use is practical and equipment for such processing is available. In connection with VFS drive on cheese, the industry contributed 250,000 posters for distribution by AMA to retailers. Indications that VFS drive is working well is seen in reports received here during past week. From North Carolina came reports that hatcheries and dealers increased sales of broilers and fryers during drive on those products, whereas formerly sales had dropped during that period of the year. From Pittsburgh came report that during tomato drive car receipts of tomatoes increased over 50 percent above the similar period last year.

CONTAINERS: In order to project estimates of critical materials required for packaging this year and next, consolidated reports have been obtained from WPB indicating quantity of steel, tin and rubber that will be required for packaging all food commodities. Committee has been set up with representative of WPB and USDA to bring container estimates up to date. Subcommittees of representatives of USDA and other agencies will make final over-all estimates on all packaging materials necessary for civilian, military and industrial consumers. Meanwhile, Dept. of Commerce, at request of WPB, is making container survey that will cover glass, plastic and paper containers, closures, (caps, etc.) shipping cartons, wooden barrels, steel drums, wooden boxes, collapsible tubes, and other containers in common use. Inquiries will be sent some 3,000 container manufacturers in order to obtain necessary information on packaging uses, raw materials, productive capacity and other important factors as well as on products for which different types of containers are used and other pertinent facts. Information obtained will be used by WPB as basis for deciding container policies.

DEHYDRATION: Representatives of USDA and WPB are meeting to consider standardization of packaging requirements for dehydrated foods.

TWINE: Jute twine conservation order (M-70) has been amended to permit unlimited manufacture of that product for military and agricultural purposes. This is extremely important because it is first time since war began that sufficient twine has been made available to agriculture. Amendment also sets Defense Supplies Corporation up as sole purchasing agent of imported jute.

DRIED MILK: First shipment abroad of dried whole milk has arrived at Malta and is helping sustain allied soldiers and civilians there. Enough powdered whole milk was delivered there in June to supply 2,250,000 quarts of the liquid product.

DRIED EGGSE Consumer-size five ounce packages of dried eggs for shipment to England are rolling off production lines in just two American factories at rate of 700,000 each 24-hour day. This daily output is enough to supply a thirty-day ration of the product for 2 million English men, women and children.